task are common occurrences in industry and produce a massive annual loss of working time in addition to the discomfort and misery caused to the individual. Many are concerned in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of these injuries, from occupational physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, and physiologists to ergonomists, designers, engineers, and physicists. *Occupational Biomechanics* has something for all of these disciplines and the authors are to be congratulated on producing such an excellent overview of the subject. For those, such as myself, who are only partially mathematically literate, some of the chapters are hard work but persistence is rewarded and strongly recommended.

Students will profit from this book, although they should note the caveat below, and there are a useful set of review questions to aid the process of learning.

A potential criticism concerns coordinate reference frames; these are introduced at several places in the book, are generally difficult to interpret, and, with the exception of the chapter on vibration, are at variance with the ISO recommendations. This can lead only to confusion.

Libraries supporting a department concerned with biomechanics should buy this book.

DAVID ANTON

Contemporary Ergonomics. Edited by DJ Osborne. (Pp 246, £20.) London; Taylor and Francis, 1985.

This is a cheaply produced (apparently photoprinted from non-justified typescript) and expensively priced (£20) collection of 35 papers delivered at the 1985 conference of the Ergonomics Society. This disparity between quality and price may well signify that the publisher anticipated low sales figures; if so, I fear that he is unlikely to be proved wrong. The problem with the book is, I think, the same as the problem with "ergonomics"—lack of coherence. For example, "The relation of psychophysical strength testing to back pain" is included in the same section (Physiological Ergonomics) as "Thrill and anxiety in adventure leisure parks." In other sections a "A fuzzy model of a helmsman during a course changing task" and "identifying useability variability variables for teleshopping" may be found.

The quality of the papers is also variable. None is obviously excellent but some appear to report worthwhile research and may well make a genuine contribution to scholarship in their field. For example, O'Neill *et al* present a computer model to estimate the thermal state of a human body in different environmental and clothing conditions and Sutton and Towill present a mathematical model of the control activ-

ity of helming a ship. Some of the papers seem informed and interesting but are essentially discussions rather than directly useful—for example, Reason debates the nature of human error and presents some interesting speculation on the topic. Some of the papers, however, make it difficult for the reviewer to identify their virtues. Reinhardt-Rutland describes in a rather fragmentary way some of the visual problems of driving, speculates on some of the effects that visual illusions might have on the driver, but provides no empirical substantiation for the existence of any applied problem.

It is difficult to imagine who might wish to own this book given the diverse nature of the subject matter, but if you need to know how to develop sightline criteria for underground mining machinery or about the effect of glove design on manual dexterity in neutral and cold conditions, then this is the book for you.

ROGER GREEN

Virus-associated cancers in Africa. Edited by OA Williams, GT O'Connor, GB De-The, and CA Johnson. (Pp 770, £20.) Oxford; Oxford University Press, 1984. (IARC scientific publication No 63.)

This substantial bilingual (English and French) tome is devoted to the proceedings of a meeting on virus associated cancers in Africa held in Nairobi two or three years ago (I was unable to find the date of this small gathering).

It is a timely publication since there is now increasing and compelling evidence that hepatocellular carcinoma (primary liver cancer), carcinoma of the cervix, certain forms of lymphoma such as Burkitt's lymphoma and nasopharyngeal carcinoma, certain leukaemias, and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) are caused by or are closely associated with specific viruses.

The meeting was held before massive information was published on AIDS, although some reference is made to human T-lymphotropic retroviruses, particularly in relation to Kaposi's sarcoma in Zaire. An excellent summary is, however, appended. Other malignancies also receive attention—for example, human papilloma viruses and genital cancer, and, less convincingly, skin cancer and cytomegalovirus and Kaposi's sarcoma—but it is not surprising that over half of the 770 pages of the text are devoted to hepatitis B virus, chronic liver disease and primary liver cancer, and immunisation against hepatitis B, which is expected to prevent at least 80% of hepatocellular carcinoma.

The two criticisms of an otherwise useful publica-